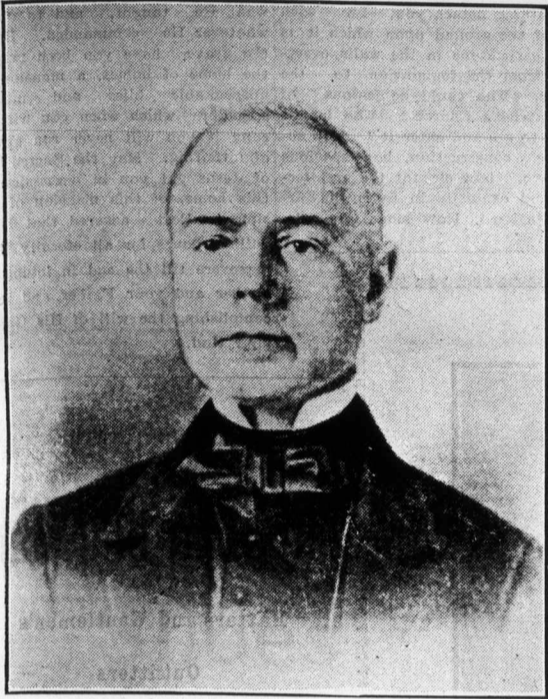


St. Patrick's Church Consecration Number

Father M. Callaghan's Remarks Anent Consecration of St. Patrick's Church.

(True Witness, May 31.)



THE LATE REV. J. CONNOLLY, FIRST PASTOR.

On Sunday last Father Callaghan made some timely remarks regarding the coming consecration of St. Patrick's Church, which to the older parishioners will bring back pleasant memories of a day that is gone, and to the younger members will be instructive as well as interesting. The pastor spoke as follows:

There is a quantity of miscellaneous matter in which you are concerned to which I would like to draw your attention. It is both the time and the place to do so.

St. Patrick's Church was blessed in 1847—the year of the typhus fever, which caused a considerable loss of life and occasioned a rare display of Christian heroism. It was blessed by Bishop Prince on the 17th day of March. Rev. J. J. Connolly was the first priest who took charge of this church, and had Rev. Patrick Dowd as his immediate successor. He preached on the day it was blessed. He was the second individual of Irish Celtic origin—the first being Father Phelan—who was ordained a priest on the island of Montreal. He hailed from the Diocese of Waterford, and died in Boston. I recollect having seen him several times and having listened to his melodious voice during the office of Vespers. He had for an assistant Rev. Father

McMahon, with whom I dined a few years ago in the Catholic University of Washington—an institution of which he has been considered the most liberal benefactor.

St. Patrick's Church will be consecrated on the 26th day of the coming June by His Grace Paul Bruchesi, who since the day he became the Archbishop of Montreal, did in the most telling way all that he could for all those who spoke the English language and submitted to his authority.

You might wish to know what is the difference between a church that is blessed and a church that is consecrated. I shall be brief in telling you. There is a difference in several ways. By being blessed or consecrated a church is withdrawn from the dominion of Satan and dedicated to the worship of the Most High. A church must be at least blessed. If it is not, the sacrifice of the Mass should not be celebrated within its precincts. Once blessed it is proper that it should be consecrated when there is no obstacle in the way.

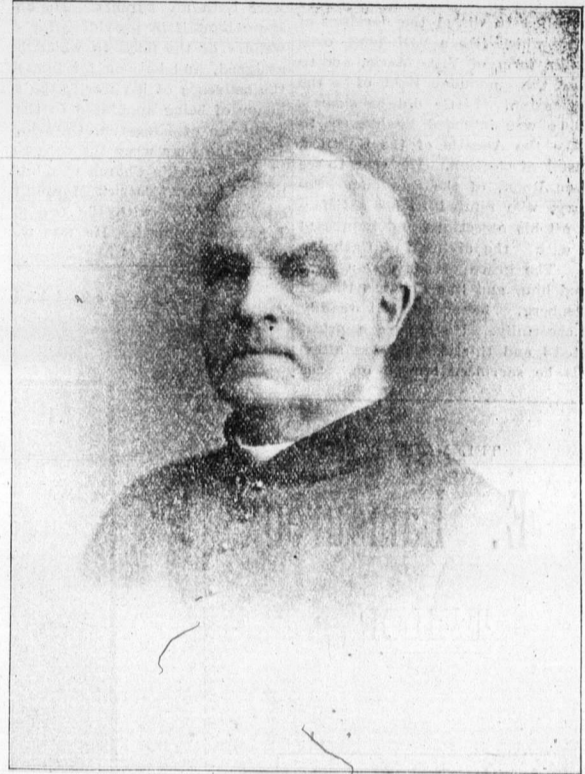
You can hardly compare the ceremonial for the blessing with that for the consecration; the ceremonial for the latter being most imposing in grandeur, diversified in detail and

rich in symbolism. A church may be blessed by a simple priest. It is necessary that he should be delegated by the Bishop of the place. It is a bishop and only a bishop who can by his ordinary jurisdiction consecrate a church. The consecrator has to be the bishop of the place. He can delegate the bishop of any other place to consecrate a church within the limits of his diocese. Several bishops may participate in the consecration. The leading role is reserved for the bishop of the place where the church is built. A simple priest can be empowered by the Pope to consecrate any church in the world. There is no fast prescribed for the day previous to the blessing of a church. Fasting is obligatory for the eve of a day when a church is to be consecrated. A church may be blessed without being free from debt. This is not so when there is

000 at the transferring of our boys from the premises of the St. Lawrence school to the building situated on the corner of Lagache and St. Genevieve streets.

St. Patrick's Church is our absolute property. We own it in the eyes of the law and in the eyes of the highest ecclesiastical authority. When it will have been consecrated there will be no other English-speaking church in a similar position upon the island or in the Province of Quebec or perhaps Ontario.

The custom of consecrating a church is not the product of modern times. It can be easily traced to the days of the Apostles—nay, to the remotest period of the pre-Christian epoch. The Catholic history of Montreal is teeming with interest and edification. It has a chapter on the English speaking Catholics most deserving of being studied, remem-



THE LATE REV. PATRICK DOWD, SECOND PASTOR.

in their convictions, pure in their motives and spontaneously generous in their advocacy of every cause worthy of being upheld?

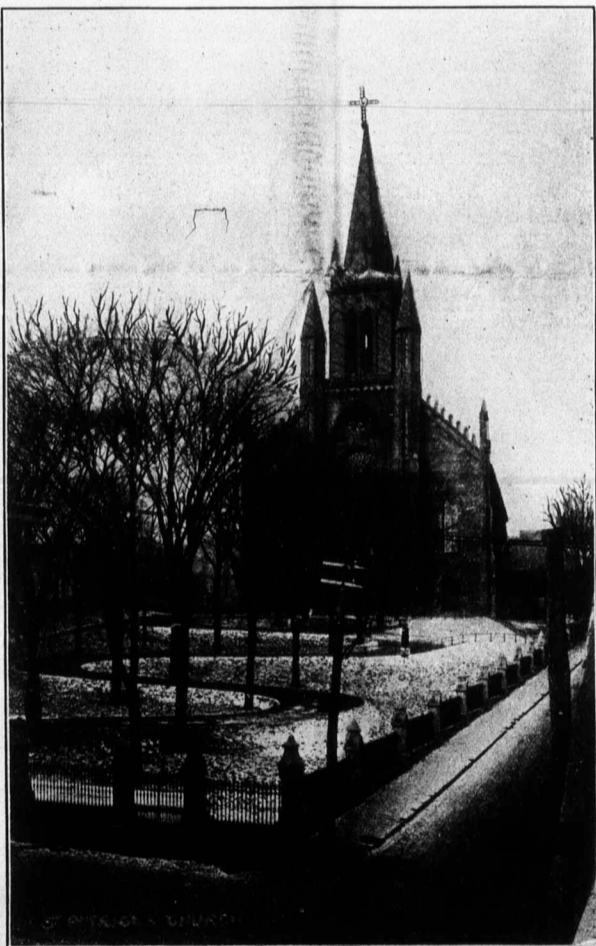
It is with the view of preparing you for the due celebration of the day St. Patrick's Church will be consecrated that I shall emphasize a few authentic facts consigned in our annals. You may derive much profit from what I shall relate.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century there was no sign or vestige of the Hibernian element in Montreal. Towards the end of the second decade the number of Irish Catholics did not exceed fifty adults. Since then it increased during an interval, at first slowly, and afterwards rapidly. In 1848 it reached 12,000. The Irish who settled upon the island fringed with the limpid waters of the St. Lawrence left the land of their ancestors with eyes streaming with the tears of sorrow and with bosoms convulsed with the sobs of regret. No longer could they dwell in a country where they saw all their aspirations crushed and had to undergo without any fault of theirs all sorts of hardships, in a country where they felt irrevocably doomed to inactivity, poverty, ignorance, slavery and persecution,

though of all countries upon the planet we inhabit no other country was so dear, or could be so dear to their hearts. On bidding a most reluctant farewell to the green hills and smiling valleys, to the fertile fields and sparkling rivers, to the picturesque shores of sweet Innisfail, they confidently hoped that beneath a new sky, in a new atmosphere, and in a new land they would improve their condition. Were they disappointed? No. How could they be disappointed? Were they not the most desirable and should they not be the most welcome of exiles and immigrants? Were they not ambitious, industrious, indomitable in courage, law abiding in disposition, and virtuous in an uncommon degree? Did they not combine all the qualifications which should entitle them to the confidence of the community into which they were admitted, and which could not but reflect the most dazzling lustre upon the flag of any nation?

From the day of their arrival until the year our church was blessed all their spiritual wants were supplied. Nothing they could have desired was denied them. They at-

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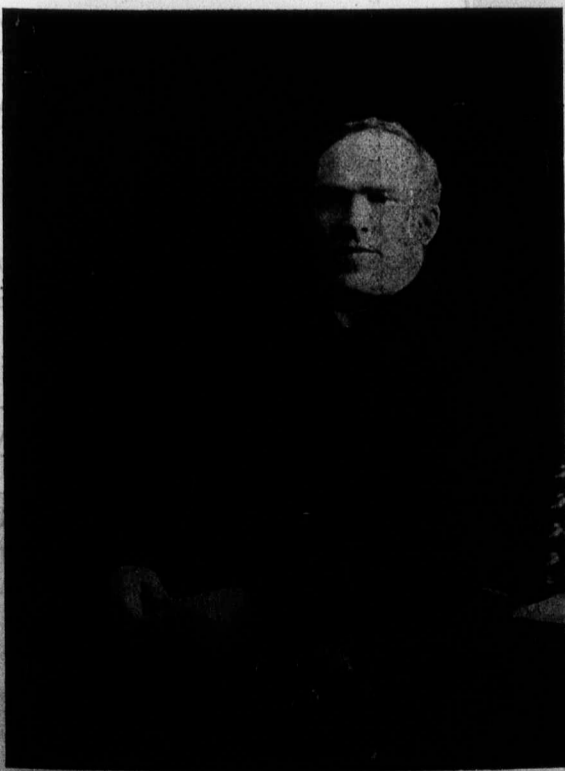
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, ALEXANDER STREET.

question of consecrating it. When it is consecrated it cannot be employed for profane purposes of any description. A church which is merely blessed can be alienated but never a church which has been consecrated. It would be nothing less than the crime of sacrilege to sell, exchange or mortgage it.

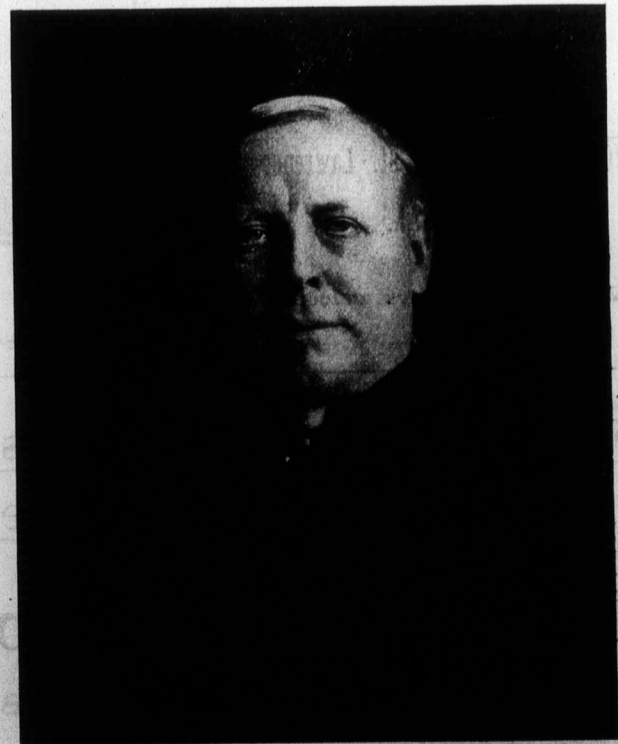
St. Patrick's Church is minus the faintest shadow of indebtedness. It was only a month ago the title deeds were deposited in the vault of the presbytery. This church was purchased in 1885 from the Fabrique of Notre Dame for the sum of \$121,390, bearing interest at 4 1/2 per cent. This sum was paid by instalments. The first payment was made in 1887 by Father Dowd, and the last by myself on the 1st day of October, 1902. I then handed the Fabrique of Notre Dame a cheque for \$10,337.50. Our church debt would be still unextinguished were it not for the donation of \$20,000 on the part of James McCreedy and for the kindness with which we were treated by the gentlemen of the Seminary.

They lent us \$22,000 without interest. I returned them \$2000 and they cancelled the balance of \$20,-

bered and rehearsed. Always have they challenged the profoundest respect and the most genuine admiration. Nobody is inclined to refuse them this twofold homage. It would be a flagrant injustice to assert or imagine that they have exerted little or no influence in promoting the prosperity in religion of which in all honesty our city can boast. Largely have they contributed towards the preservation, progress and prestige of our faith. By the English-speaking Catholics I understand principally all the Catholics of Irish birth, parentage or descent. In this connection I would be sorry to exclude or ignore all those who with the blood of other nationalities in their veins, have identified themselves with the Montreal Irish Catholics by worshipping at the same altar and by co-operating in the furtherance of the same objects. To what a magnificent class of people I am alluding! I would be pleased to see a class as good or even better. Where shall I find it? Nothing low, narrow or selfish could be detected in the complexion of their character. Have they not been supernaturally grand, lofty in their ideals, sound in their principles, deep and strong



THE LATE REV. JOHN QUINLIVAN, S.S. THIRD PASTOR.



REV. MARTIN CALLAGHAN, PRESENT PASTOR.